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## **CHAPTER 5**

### **CONSULTATION, COORDINATION AND PREPARATION**

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## CONSULTATION, COORDINATION, AND PREPARATION

### INTRODUCTION

This section presents a summary of public participation in the scoping process and drafting of the EIS; the criteria and methods by which public input is evaluated; a list of the persons, groups, or agencies consulted in the preparation of the EIS, a list of preparers; and the distribution list.

### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SUMMARY

Public participation specific to the Proposed Tracy to Silver Lake 120 kV Transmission Line (Proposed Action) is summarized in this chapter. The summary indicates how the public has been involved, identifies persons and organizations contacted for feedback, and specifies time frames for accomplishing goals in accordance with 40 CFR 1506.6.

Public involvement in the EIS process includes the necessary steps to identify and address public concerns and needs. The public involvement process assists the agencies in: (1) broadening the information base for decision making; (2) informing the public about the Proposed Action and the potential long-term impacts that could result from the project; and (3) ensuring that public needs are understood by the agencies.

Public participation in the EIS process is required by NEPA at four specific points: the scoping period, review of the Draft EIS, review of the Final EIS, and receipt of the Records of Decision.

### Scoping

The public was provided a 30-day scoping period to disclose potential issues and concerns associated with the Proposed Action. Information obtained by the agencies during public scoping was combined with issues identified by the agencies and this formed the scope of the EIS.

### Draft EIS Review

A 60-day Draft EIS review period will be initiated by publication of the Notice of Availability for the Draft EIS in the Federal Register. A public hearing will be held in Reno, Nevada during the 60-day comment period.

### Final EIS Review

A 30-day Final EIS review period will be initiated by publication of the Notice of Availability for the Final EIS in the Federal Register.

### Record of Decision

Subsequent to the 30-day review period for the Final EIS, a Record of Decision will be prepared.

### IMPLEMENTATION

The public participation process for the Project EIS is comprised of the following five components:

#### Public Scoping Period and Meetings

Publication of a Notice of Intent (NOI) initiated a public scoping period on June 25, 2002. The NOI summarized the Proposed Action and a determination by the agency that an EIS would be necessary for analysis of SPPCo's proposal. The news media and public were notified of the public comment period.

Scoping cards were mailed to individuals and organizations announcing the scoping period and describing the Proposed Action. Issues that had been identified by the agency were also included in the mailing.

A public scoping meeting was held in Reno, Nevada on July 17, 2002. Scoping information was made available to the 18 individuals attending the meeting. In addition to comments received at the open house, BLM and SPPCo presented the project and entertained public input at several other locations,

including the Washoe County Citizens Advisory Boards for Warm Springs, Spanish Springs, and North Valleys areas, and the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony.

Although the official close of the scoping period was August 30, 2002, all written submissions received through October 9, 2002, have been considered by BLM in determining the analysis presented in the EIS. A total of 55 people submitted comments on the proposed action during the scoping period.

### **Draft EIS Distribution**

The Draft EIS will be distributed as follows:

- A Notice of Availability will be published in the Federal Register specifying dates for the comment period.
- A news release will be provided to all area media by the BLM at the beginning of the 60-day comment period on the Draft EIS.
- The Draft EIS will be distributed to interested parties identified in the updated EIS mailing list.
- The Draft EIS will be posted on the BLM Carson City Field Office website.
- A public open-house meeting will be held in Reno, Nevada to obtain comments on the Draft EIS and to answer questions that the public has regarding the project or the EIS process.
- Presentations will be made by BLM to solicit comments on the Draft EIS to Sun Valley, North Valley, Spanish Springs, and Warm Springs Citizen Advisory Boards, and other entities, as appropriate.

### **Final EIS Distribution**

The Final EIS will be distributed as follows:

- Notice of Availability will be published in the Federal Register.
- Copies of the Final EIS or Summary EIS will be sent to addresses on the mailing list.

- The Final EIS will be posted on the BLM Carson City Field Office website.
- A news release will be issued to the same news outlets used for previous project announcements.

### **Record of Decision**

A Record of Decision will be distributed by BLM to individuals and organizations identified on the updated project mailing list. A news release will be provided to the news media.

### **CRITERIA AND METHODS BY WHICH PUBLIC INPUT IS EVALUATED**

Letters and oral comments received by BLM on the Draft EIS will be reviewed and evaluated by the agency to determine if information provided in the comments would require a formal response or contain new data that may identify deficiencies in the EIS. Steps will then be initiated to correct such deficiencies and to incorporate information into the Final EIS.

### **PERSONS, GROUPS, OR AGENCIES CONSULTED**

In addition to the Cooperating Agencies identified in Chapter 1, the following state and federal agencies were consulted during preparation of the EIS:

#### **Federal Agencies**

US Army Corp of Engineers

US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation

US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs

US Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service

US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service

US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service

US Environmental Protection Agency

**State Agencies**

Nevada Clearinghouse

**Tribes**

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe

Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California

**LIST OF PREPARERS**

**Bureau of Land Management**

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Individuals from the Bureau of Land Management, Carson City Field Office, who were involved in the preparation and review of the environmental impact statement are listed below:

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Aesthetic and Visual Resources/Recreation

**Peggy Waski**

Cultural Resources/Native American Religious  
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**James Schroeder**

Flood Plains/Water Quality  
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Geologic Resources

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Hazardous Materials

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**Jo Ann Hufnagle**

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Livestock/Range Resources

**John Axtell**

Migratory Birds/Wild Horses

**Tom Crawford**

Socioeconomics

**Rick Brigham**

Threatened and Endangered Animal  
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**Jennifer Newmark**

T&E Species

**Eric Peterson**

Vegetation Mapping

**DISTRIBUTION LIST**

Applicable federal, state, and local agencies are included in the project distribution list, along with individuals who participated in the scoping process, who have expressed interest in the project, or who reside adjacent to the possible transmission line corridors. The distribution list is provided in Appendix G.